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## VARIOUS ARTISTS • Metalmania 2004 • (MVD)

Gery Vermin rates it: 🍌🍌🍌

### VARIOUS ARTISTS Metalmania 2004 (MVD)

While much like last year's documentation of the 2003 Metalmania - same locale (Spodek, Katowice - Poland), same huge stage, same soaring overhead camera shots - the festival's 18th installment doesn't stack up very well to its predecessors. Taking place on March 13, 2004, Metalmania XVIII only featured a handful of known bands on it's "main" stage and, even then, only a pinch of those being what I would consider to be half-amusing in a recorded setting, let alone a live one. Mainstagers Morbid Angel and the U.K.'s Decapitated are nowhere to be found on this 23-song batch of footage, leaving even more time to experience the Cannibal Corpse stage-move-swipery of Poland's **Trauma** and the majestic power metal noodlery and split ends of **Esqrial** (FEATURING GRZEGORX KUPCZYK!!! whoever that may be...). Brazil's **Krisiun** seem actually happy to be there ("I'm not keesin' your ash, butchoo gice are fuggin' greeeeeeeeeeeat!") and their "Dawn Of Flagellation" and "Murder" are good enough, I suppose (but still sound like a lukewarm Morbid Angel to me), leaving **Enslaved**, resplendent in khaki shorts, spiky bicep bands and leather trusses, to fumble through this particular lineup's European debut in a blur of off-key choruses and endless songs. Ah, **MSG**... say, who dresses Michael Schenker, anyway? Oh wait, my mistake, it must be the bassist - the one dressed like a dreadlocked Holstein... never mind. Gotta love the lyrics to "Arachnophobic": "I want my money back / Arachnophobic... Where's that hairy one crawling to?" **Tiamat** return for the umpteenth time with a "best of" set, of which only the "Harvester Of Sorrow" - full "Sleeping Beauty", complete with backing vocals from sleeping beauty Fernando Ribiero from Moonspell. Apparently, **TSA** (discouragingly standing for "Teetotallers Secret Association" and not "Tourette Syndrome Association" or the "Texas Society Of Analinguists" as I'd hoped) are a huge, influential heavy metal hit in their Polish homeland - however, in my Kansas living room they are merely stringy-haired grampas cha-cha-ing and doing three embarrassing ditties, the AC/DC carboned "Kocica" - complete with an inane "do the same horseshit I do" clapalong - being the most agonizingly arduous. Not that there was any competition to begin with, but **Moonspell** smokes 'em all with my three personal faves from these Portuguese purveyors of pessimism: "Vampiria", "Mephisto" and the untouchable "Alma Mater". **Soulfly** wraps things up with a coupla songs that left me wanting nothing more than a reconciliation with Sepultura and for the stupid ass guitarist performing wearing a backpack (!) to fall off the fucking stage. Mainman Max Cavalera looks like death warmed over - scuzzier and ripper-looking than I've seen him yet... good thing this DVD doesn't appear in Odorama.



Special bits to the DVD include short, semi-mindless ("What do you know about Poland?" "What is your favorite thing to do on the bus?") interviews with Schenker, Ribiero, Cavalera, Enslaved, Tiamat and Krisiun, as well as subtitle-free chats with Esqrial, Trauma and TSA, band histories, Metalmania history, a large photo gallery, the Metalmania logo (why?) and desktop images.

Also included is a 13-track audio disc, featuring one song from each band that performed on Metalmania's "side" stage. The cd pretty much runs the gamut of all things metal, from the power-edge of The Chainsaw (more like The Spatula) to the aggro-core of Hedfirst and the deathly blurtings of Mutilation, the color of the day seems to be BLACK. Luna Ad Nocturn turns in the finest performance with "Avast!", leaving the remainder of the devilish doings to fall into the luciferous laps of the very capable Asgaard and the so-so silliness of Centurion and Devilyn.

**Added:** Thursday, July 07, 2005

**hits:** 4

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